

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1, lines 7-8, please delete the phrase "ingredients selected from the group consisting of";

Claim 18, lines 12-13, please delete the phrase "ingredients selected from the group consisting of";

Claim 44, line 7, please delete the phrase "ingredients selected from the group consisting of".

REMARKS

For record purposes, the Applicants note that the Attorney's docket number of the present application has been changed. The new docket number is 17564-040. For the convenience of the Examiner, the remainder of the Applicants' remarks herein have been set forth under appropriate subheadings.

The Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 18 and 44 have been amended to delete the "Markush" terminology, "ingredients selected from the group consisting of". As such, each of claims 1, 18 and 44 requires a process using an aqueous composition that is free of ammonium ions, thiosulfate ions, and combinations thereof. Thus, the aqueous composition does not contain ammonium ions or thiosulfate ions or a combination of the two. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 11 which states, "[I]n the displacement process of the present invention, no additional ammonia, (which may be in the form of ammonium hydroxide), cyanide ions, formaldehyde, thiosulfate or reducing sugars are required." This amendment has been made in acknowledgment of the statement in the Action that MPEP § 2173.05(h) considers items in a "Markush" group to be in the "alternative" form rather than the "additive" form as argued by the Applicants.